(c) the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c) Air India and Indian Airlines have introduced 11 new flights on Gulf sectors during the year 1996-97. Further augmentation of flights would depend upon the market requirements, which are constantly monitored by the airlines through traffic surveys.

**Indian Airlines pilots agitation**

278. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently the Indian Airlines pilots indulged in an agitation only for a couple of demands;

(b) whether their demands have been met; if not, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any pilot has been penalised for resorting to the agitation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Commercial Pilots Association had signed a settlement on 26.1.96 which is valid till 31.12.98. The Association raised certain issues which are aleady covered in the settlement dated 26.1.96 and cannot be re-opened during the currency of the settlement.

(c) and (d) Disciplinary action under the Standing Orders has been initiated against seven pilots who had refused to operate flights.

**New Policy to define the role of non-resident**

279. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) have Government worked out a new policy defining the role of non-resident and foreign investment in the Civil Aviation Sector; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) The modalities for permitting foreign equity and NRI equity participation in domestic air transport services sector are under formulation.

**Growth of pasenger Traffic**

280. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Miniter of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the growth of passenger traffic has not grown by 10-12% as predicted; and

(b) if so, what steps Government proposed to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORAMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) The domestic passengers carried during the year 1995 and 1996 were 119.75 and 119.07 lakhs respectively. Additional capacity is now being sanctioned to other arilines/new operators to ensure that the passenger traffic growth is not restricted due to shortage of available capacity.

**Representations by small companies against the levy of high charges by NAA**

281. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many representations have been received from companies using smaller commercial aircraft to reduce high charges being levied by National Airport Authority;

(b) if so, the details of such representations;

(d) whether Government have initiated any dialogue with the small companies to find a proper and administratively suitable price for services of NAA; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?